

Comparison of Topics Covered in Grade 8 Reading Comprehension Assessments:
NAEP, ITBS, ICAM, ITBS Constructed Response

Iowa Reading Content Standard: Students can comprehend what they read in a variety of literary and informational texts.	NAEP Grade 8 Reading Format: Contains both selected response and constructed response items (NAGB, not dated)	ITBS: Reading Comprehension, Level 14 (Form A reviewed) Format: Contains selected response items only (ITP, 2003)	ICAM: Four modules Format: Contains both selected response and constructed response items (ICAM, 2001)	ITBS Constructed Response Supplement, Level 14 Format: Contains constructed response items only (ITP, not dated)
Students can:	A) Reading for literary experience B) Reading for information C) Reading to perform a task	Contains literary and information articles	Comprehending literature (module 1) Comprehending academic texts (module 2) Comprehending functional texts (module 3) Literary Elements and Techniques (module 4) Each module has 19 total points.	Thinking about Reading: Contains one article of extended length
1. Understand stated information they have read. 2. Determine the meaning of new words from their context. 7. Determine the main idea of a text.	1) Forming a general understanding 2) Developing interpretation (focus of specific parts of the text) (together 1 and 2 are approximately 55% of the test)	Factual understanding (35%) Understand stated information (14 questions) Understand words in context (4 questions)	Understands main ideas and supporting details in texts (0 to 4 points) Uses context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words or phrases (0 to 1 points) Summarizes and paraphrases content in texts, including the relationships among concepts and details (0 to 8 points)	Factual meaning (1 question)
3. Draw conclusions, make inferences, and deduce meaning. 4. Infer traits, feelings, and motives of characters. 5. Interpret information in	3) Making reader/text connections (think beyond the text) (15%)	Inference and Interpretation (35%) Draw conclusions (12 questions) Infer traits, feelings, or motives of characters (2 questions)	Makes inferences and predictions, and draws conclusions about story elements (e.g., plot, setting, characters, symbolism) (0 to 5 points)	Inferential meaning (6 questions)

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new contexts. 6. Interpret nonliteral language used in a text.		Interpret information in new contexts (2 questions) Interpret nonliteral language (2 questions)		
8. Identify the writer's views or purpose. 9. Analyze style or structure.	4) Examining content and structure (30%)	Analysis and Generalization (30%) Determine main ideas (6 questions) Identify author's purpose or viewpoint (3 questions) Analyze style or structure of a passage (7 questions)	Understands author's purpose, intent, or viewpoint and connects the author's purpose, form, and style to the content of the text (1 to 3 points) The Literary Elements and Techniques module also measures: Identifies specific literary and poetic devices (3 points); Understands elements of plot, theme, setting, characterization (5-6 points); Knows defining characteristics of a variety of literary forms (1 point); and describes or compares and contrasts the qualities and/or motives of characters (8 points)	Evaluative meaning (5 questions)